

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTONA NEW SPECIES OF DICLIPTERA FROM MEXICO.¹

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In March, 1937, Llewelyn Williams collected in the vicinity of Fortuño, Veracruz, Mexico, several specimens of a peculiar large-bracted acanthaceous plant, which recently were forwarded to the writer by Field Museum of Natural History for identification. They appear to represent a new species of *Dicliptera*, which may be described as follows:

Dicliptera anomala Leonard, sp. nov.

Herba vel suffrutex, caulibus subteretibus vel obscure hexagonis, glabris vel sparse bifariam hirtellis; lamina foliorum oblongo-lanceolata, acuminata, basi angustata, membranacea, leviter crenata, glabra vel in venis parce pubescens; inflorescentia paniculata, grandis, terminalis, cymis 3-floribus; bracteae floriferae exteriores inaequales, posterior grandis ovata, obtusa, plana vel conduplicata, pilosula, viridis vel purpurea, venis reticulatis, anterior oblonga, acuta, pilosa, bracteae interiores lanceolatae, albidae, glanduloso-puberulentae; calycis segmenta lineari-lanceolata, subhyalina, glanduloso-puberulenta; corolla rosea, longa, angusta, curvata; antherae loculi obliqui, inaequaliter affixi, connectivo lato; capsulae ovoideae, brevistipitatae, compressae, minute glanduloso-pubescentes, pilis eglanduliferis instructae; semina plana, fulva, muricata.

Herbaceous or suffrutescent, up to 2 meters high; stems terete or obscurely hexagonal, glabrous or sparingly hirtellous in 2 lines; leaf blades oblong-lanceolate, up to 20 cm. long and 5.5 cm. wide, acuminate, narrowed at base, thin, shallowly crenate, glabrous or the costa and nerves sparingly pubescent, the cystoliths inconspicuous; petioles up to 6 cm. long, rounded and glabrous beneath, channeled and hirtellous above; flowers borne in a large terminal leafy panicle of 3-flowered cymes, the peduncles up to 3 cm. long, sparingly and finely pubescent in 2 lines, the branches of the cymes rather densely pubescent; bracts subtending the peduncles various in size, leaflike, those subtending the cymes linear-lanceolate or subulate, 1 to 1.5 cm. long; outer bracts of the flower cluster dissimilar, the posterior bract ovate, up to 3.5 cm. long and 3 cm. wide, obtuse, abruptly narrowed at base,

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flat or conduplicate, densely to sparingly pilosulous (the hairs about 0.5 mm. long or a few of them shorter and glandular), veiny, greenish, sometimes with a purplish tinge or the veins purple at maturity, the anterior bract oblong, about 18 mm. long and 6 mm. wide, acute, narrowed at base, pilosulous (some of the hairs glandular), light green, flat, somewhat veiny, the inner bracts lanceolate, about 14 mm. long and 4 mm. wide, acute, whitish, veiny, puberulent, some of the hairs glandular; calyx segments linear-lanceolate, 9 to 10 mm. long, 2 mm. broad at base, acuminate, subhyaline, 3-nerved, glandular-puberulent; corolla pinkish red, finely and sparingly pubescent, up to 6 cm. long, curved, 2 mm. in diameter at base, gradually enlarged to about 5 mm. at mouth, the lips 10 to 15 mm. long, the upper one ovate, about 8 mm. wide, entire, the lower one oblong, about 5 mm. wide, 3-lobed at apex, the lobes rounded, about 1 mm. long; stamens reaching the tip of the upper lip, the anther lobes unequally and obliquely attached by a broad connective; capsule ovoid, 10 mm. long, 5 mm. broad, and 3 mm. thick, short-stipitate, flattened, pubescent with a mixture of short glandular hairs and longer eglandular ones, the flat sides of the capsule thin, the narrow curved sides thick and firm; seeds flat, brown, roughened.

Type in the herbarium of Field Museum of Natural History, no. 896,496, collected at Fortuño, on the Coatzacoalcos River, Veracruz, Mexico, altitude 30 to 50 meters, occurring commonly along roadways and forest trails, March, 1937, by Llewelyn Williams (no. 8308). Nos. 8442 and 8546 of Mr. Williams' collection, from the same locality, are this species also.

This remarkable species is very conspicuous because of its exceedingly large posterior flower bracts. In Veracruz it is commonly called "rosa morada" and "yerba de canilla," but the name "rosa morada" is applied also to *Tabebuia pentaphylla* (L.) Hemsl.,² of the Bignonia Family.

² Standley in Contr. U. S. Nat. Herb. 23 : 1320. 1926.